

RSS Readers and Feeds

Google Reader

RSS (short for "Really Simple Syndication") is a family of web feed formats used to publish frequently updated content such as blog entries, news headlines or podcasts. An RSS document, which is called a "feed," "web feed," or "channel," contains either a summary of content from an associated web site or the full text. RSS makes it possible for you to keep up with your favorite web sites in an automated manner that's easier than checking them by visiting each site individually.

Subscribing: RSS content can be read using software called a "feed reader" or an "aggregator." The user subscribes to a feed by entering the feed's link into the reader or by clicking an RSS icon in a browser that initiates the subscription process. The reader checks the user's subscribed feeds regularly for new content, downloading any updates that it finds.

Above description borrowed and modified from
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RSS>

We will be looking at Google Reader as well as Bloglines. Also note, if you are using FireFox, IE 7.0, or Safari an RSS is built right into the browser. Google Reader interfaces seamlessly with Blogger and Bloglines also offers us a classroom blog that we can use in conjunction with the its Blogroll. But first we will start with Google Reader.

My services - [Edit](#)



[Blogger](#)



[Calendar](#)



[Co-op](#) - [My Search Engines](#)



[Docs and Spreadsheets](#)



[iGoogle](#) - [Add content](#)



[Notebook](#)



[Reader](#) - [Settings](#)



[Web History](#)

Parts of the Main Window

1. Navigation links

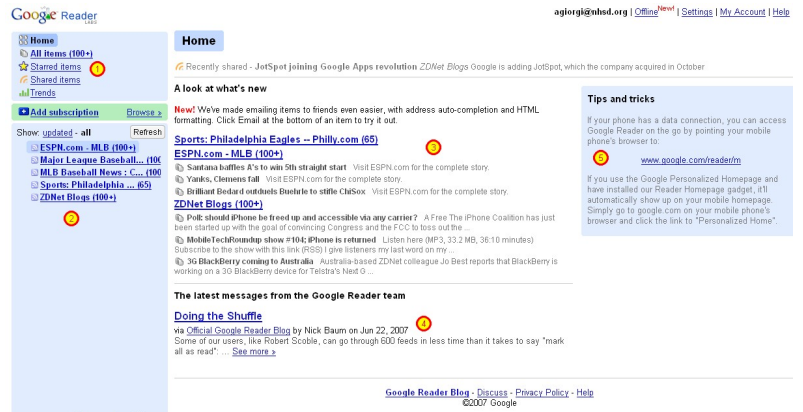
Show all of your links or "star" an important story to set it aside.

2. Subscriptions in your reader.

To choose a feed, click on a link

3. The latest posts from your subscriptions

To read a story, click on a link.



4. Updates from the Google Reader Team: The team's blog

5. Tips from Google: useful hints for getting more out of Reader

Browse and Subscriptions

1. Click on the Browse link to view readily available subscriptions from within the reader.

2. If you know the feed's address already, you can add a subscription from within the reader, click on the "Add Subscription" link.



Bundles

1. Browse through the bundles to see if you find interesting content.
2. If someone has a blog or personal photo page you like, you may be able to create a feed simply by listing their username and the service they use.
3. If you want to search for something in particular, use the search engine.

Browse and discover feeds

Get started quickly with feed bundles

The easiest way to add subscriptions is to subscribe to one of our pre-packaged bundles. They individual feeds later on.

1

News
+ Subscribe
6 feeds »

Sports
+ Subscribe
9 feeds »

Fun
+ Subscribe
6 feeds »

[More bundles...](#) →

Stay close to friends and family! 2

Do your friends use Blogger, Flickr or MySpace? We've made it easy to keep up with users of t

Username: Service: + Subscribe

Search and browse 3

You can also search for feeds by using keywords:

Keywords:

Still looking? Get started with these category searches:

[All](#), [News](#), [Fun & Games](#), [Finance](#), [Sports](#), [Lifestyle](#), [Technology](#)

1. Subscribing to a bundle

If you subscribe to a bundle, you get a package of feeds.

In this example, I have checked news and as you can see I have a new folder with six feeds.

[Shared items](#)
[Trends](#)

[+ Add subscription](#) [Browse »](#)

Show: [updated](#) - [all](#)

news (60)

- [BBC News | News Front... \(1](#)
- [Christian Science Mon... \(10](#)
- [ESPN.com \(10\)](#)
- [Google News \(10\)](#)
- [MarketWatch.com - Top... \(](#)
- [NPR: 7AM ET News Summa](#)
- [ZDNet Blogs \(100+\)](#)

The easiest way to add subscriptions is t individual feeds later on.

News
+ Subscribed - [View](#)
6 feeds »

Fun
+ Subscribe
6 feeds »

Stay close to friends and family!

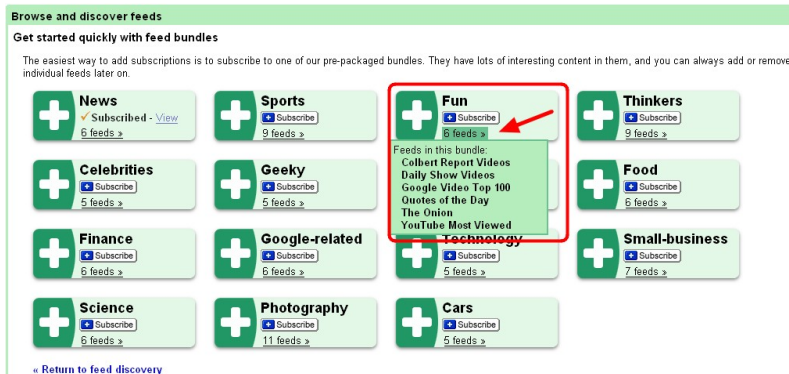
Do your friends use Blogger, Flickr or My

Username: Servi

Bundles Gallery

The Bundles gallery can be a lot of fun to browse. Just hover your mouse pointer over the "# feeds" and a list of the feeds will appear. In this example, we are looking at the "Fun" feeds (the arrow is pointing at the spot where you should have your mouse pointer).

Just like on the previous page, it only takes one click to subscribe.



2. People I know

In this example, I am creating a feed based on the blog we are working on ((in my case, it is mrgiorgi and the service is Blogger).

A great way for your students to keep up to date with your changes is if they have you in their reader. Anytime you change anything, they get a post.

Stay close to friends and family!

Do your friends use Blogger, Flickr or MySpace? We've made it easy to keep up with users of these and other social sites.

Username: Service:

Results of people I know

Here is the result of adding the username and service.

1. The subscription to my blog has been added to my subscription list.
2. There is an announcement in orange at the top of the page informing me what has been added.
3. As you can see, the full content (including the picture of Brandy the pug dog) is viewable. If I wish to visit the page, I can click on the link of the story of my choosing ("Sample Post" or "Huxley").



3. Searching for something specific

In this example we are going to search for a website that specializes in translating news from the Middle East.

Search and browse

You can also search for feeds by using keywords:

Keywords:

Still looking? Get started with these category searches:

[All](#), [News](#), [Fun & Games](#), [Finance](#), [Sports](#), [Lifestyle](#), [Technology](#)

Search Results

Our search results allow us to subscribe in one click and provide with the feed URL and a description.

Feeds matching "MEMRI"

[Return to feed discovery](#)

The MEMRI Blog

The MEMRI Blog is a new service, provided by The Middle East Media Research Institute, which will operate in conjunction with MEMRI.org, MEMRITV.org, ...

http://www.thememriblog.org/latest_blogs.rss

blog

Add The MEMRI Blog to your personalized Google homepage. Contact: Would you like to get in touch with us? Send an email to Blog@memri.org ...

http://www.thememriblog.org/latest_blogs.rss

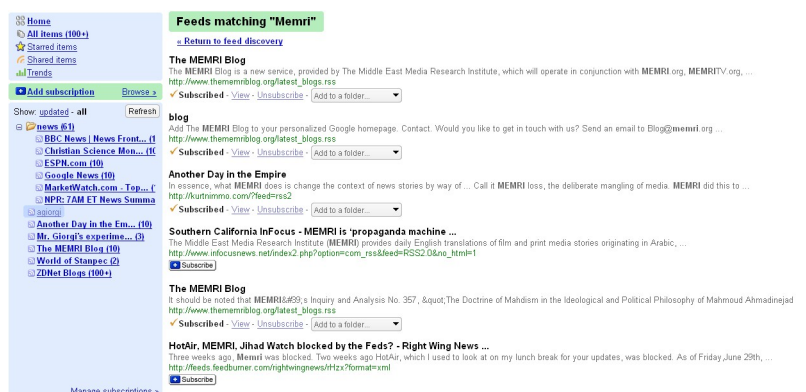
Memri is added

As you can see MEMRI is added.



MEMRI and two other feeds added

In the previous step, MEMRI was added. It is important to note that we don't leave the page, so if we want to subscribe to two or more feeds from our search result we can.



Management Control Panel

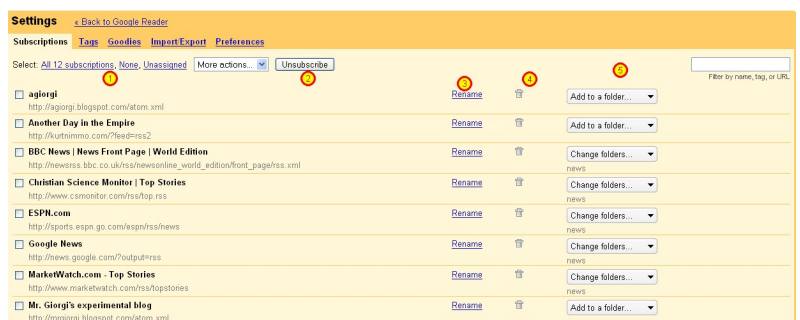
To get to the management control panel click on "Manage Subscriptions" at the bottom of the blue subscriptions bar.



Manage Subscriptions: Setting

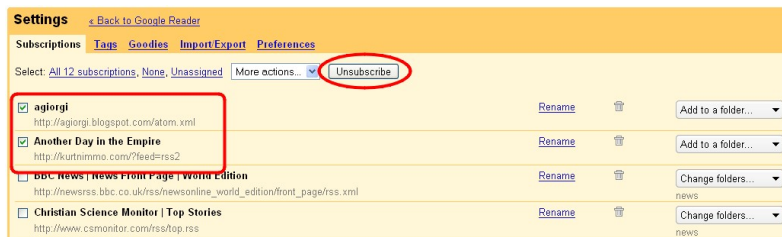
From the settings tab you can:

1. Select which subscriptions you want to work with (similar to how you manage email messages)
2. Unsubscribe from selected messages (those you have checked)
3. Rename a subscription
4. Trash a subscription
5. Move it or add it to a folder or make a new folder



Selecting Subscriptions

Here I have selected two subscriptions and I am going to unsubscribe from them by clicking on Unsubscribe (circled).



Other Tabs: The other tabs are also useful and you should check them out as you become more comfortable with Reader. Goodies is particularly fun as it allows you to add the reader right to your personalized Google homepage, add a feed button to your browser toolbar and even allows you to get to your reader right from your cell phone. The Import/Export tab allows you to either import from another reader (i.e. newsgator) or export to one.

Mistaken Subscriptions...can I quickly get rid of them?

In this example, I am subscribing to a feed based on a blog that I know exists, but which has no content.



Quick management and a quick Unsubscribe

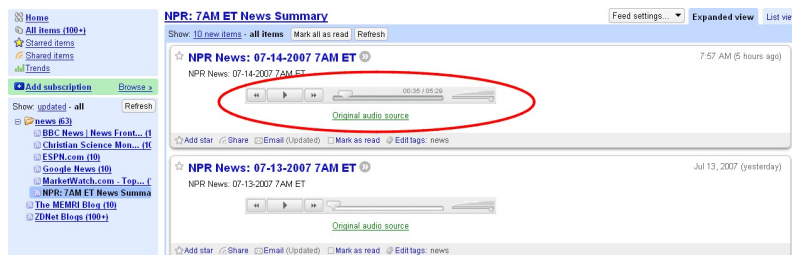
Since it has no content, I want to quickly dispose of it.

1. Whenever you want to quickly unsubscribe, you can click on "Feed Settings" in the upper right hand corner and "unsubscribe."



Quick side note: This is more than just a reader...

As this example shows, you can don't have to read everything in your reader...listen to NPR :-)

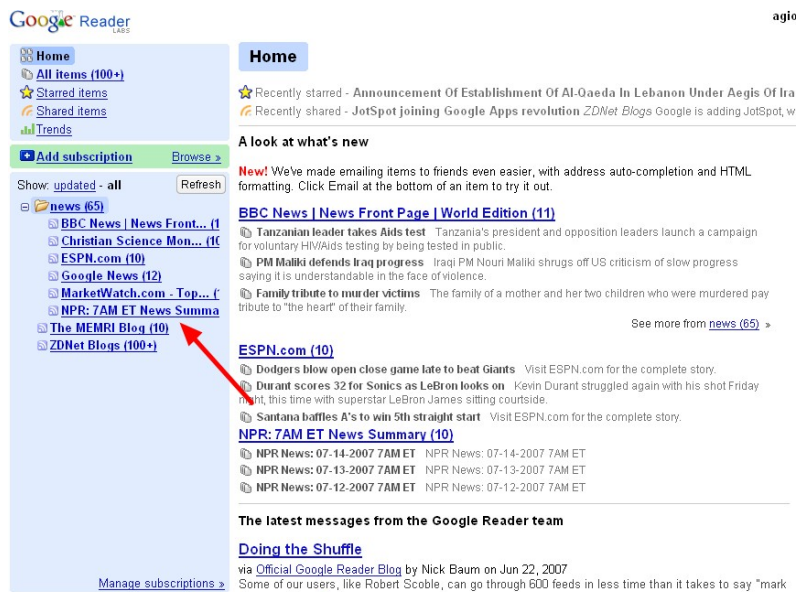


Updates Complete

After we finished managing our subscriptions, we return to the home page and see the results.

Next we are going to share content with our students through Blogger.

Now we are going to click on the NPR subscription.



Sharing an article

At the bottom of each item we have some choices: Star (if something is important) Share (to share it), Email (to email it), Mark as Read, and Tags.

We are going to click on the "Share" link to get it ready to share on our blog.

Click on "Shared Items" (arrow is pointing at it) to go to the shared items page



Shared items page

Here you can see all the items you have marked for sharing.

1. This is a website that contains all your shared items (the next example shows you what that page looks like)

2. You can email your items.

3. You can also put them on your blog and that is what we are going to do.

After you look at the website link (1) go back to the Shared page and click on the "Put a clip on your site or blog."

Your shared items Expanded view List view

Mark all as read Refresh

Your **shared items** are publicly accessible. 1
They are available as a page at <http://www.google.com/reader/shared/14198768664654864779> (and there's a **feed** 2 too)
You can remove any item from the list below by clicking on its "Unshare" link.

Tell your friends 3
You can use your Gmail account to [email your shared items](#) to your friends, family and co-workers.

Put a clip on your site or blog 4
You can also copy and paste code to [put a clip of your shared items](#) on your site.
If you use Blogger, it's even easier, just use the "Add to Blogger" button.

☆ **NPR News: 07-14-2007 7AM ET** 5 1:41 PM (seconds ago)
from NPR: 7AM ET News Summary
NPR News: 07-14-2007 7AM ET

[Original audio source](#)

☆ **Linux definitely has a place in education** 6 Jul 6, 2007 11:05 PM
from ZDNet Blogs by Christopher Dawson
But will the rest of the world follow? A few posters responding to my blog, SUSE vs. Ubuntu - first impressions, noted that they felt Linux was completely pointless in education. It wasn't so long ago that I shared their opinion. After all, 90% of the developed world uses Windows. Shouldn't students be using Windows in educational settings to be prepared for the "real world"? As one reader put it, "Just saying that we should use linux in education is silly, when you look around over 90% of the worlds desktops PCs in first world nations use Windows, we need to train people for what MOST of them WILL encounter in the workforce, not what the select few MIGHT use..."

☆ Add star Unshare Email (Updated) Add tags

Shared Website

DREW'S SHARED ITEMS

☆ **NPR News: 07-14-2007 7AM ET**
via [NPR: 7AM ET News Summary](#) on Jul 14, 2007
NPR News: 07-14-2007 7AM ET

☆ **Linux definitely has a place in education**
via [ZDNet Blogs](#) by Christopher Dawson on Jul 06, 2007
But will the rest of the world follow? A few posters responding to my blog, SUSE vs. Ubuntu - first impressions, noted that they felt Linux was completely pointless in education. It wasn't so long ago that I shared their opinion. After all, 90% of the developed world uses Windows. Shouldn't students be using Windows in educational settings to be prepared for the "real world"? As one reader put it, "Just saying that we should use linux in education is silly, when you look around over 90% of the worlds desktops PCs in first world nations use Windows, we need to train people for what MOST of them WILL encounter in the workforce, not what the select few MIGHT use..."

☆ **E-jihadists take advantage of net technology good and bad**
via [ZDNet Blogs](#) by ZDNet Government on Jul 06, 2007
The arrest of the so-called "jihadist James Bond" is putting the spotlight on how terrorists are using the Internet. Like other criminals, terrorists are taking advantage of zombie techniques, but they're also simply putting the amazing capabilities of Google and Web 2.0

These items were shared using **Google Reader** LABS

Google Reader allows you to easily keep track of your favorite websites and see all the updates in one convenient location.
[Get started with Google Reader](#)

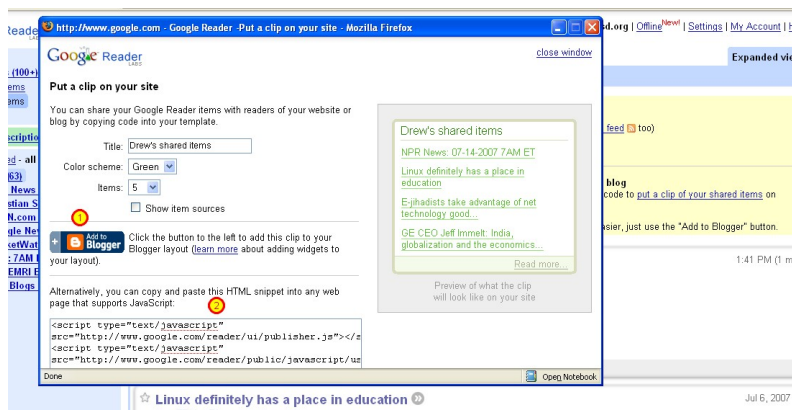
If you use another feed reader and would like to keep track of updates to these shared items, there is also a **feed** you can subscribe to.

Adding it to your blog

The pop-up site appears as soon as you click on the "Put a clip on your blog or website"

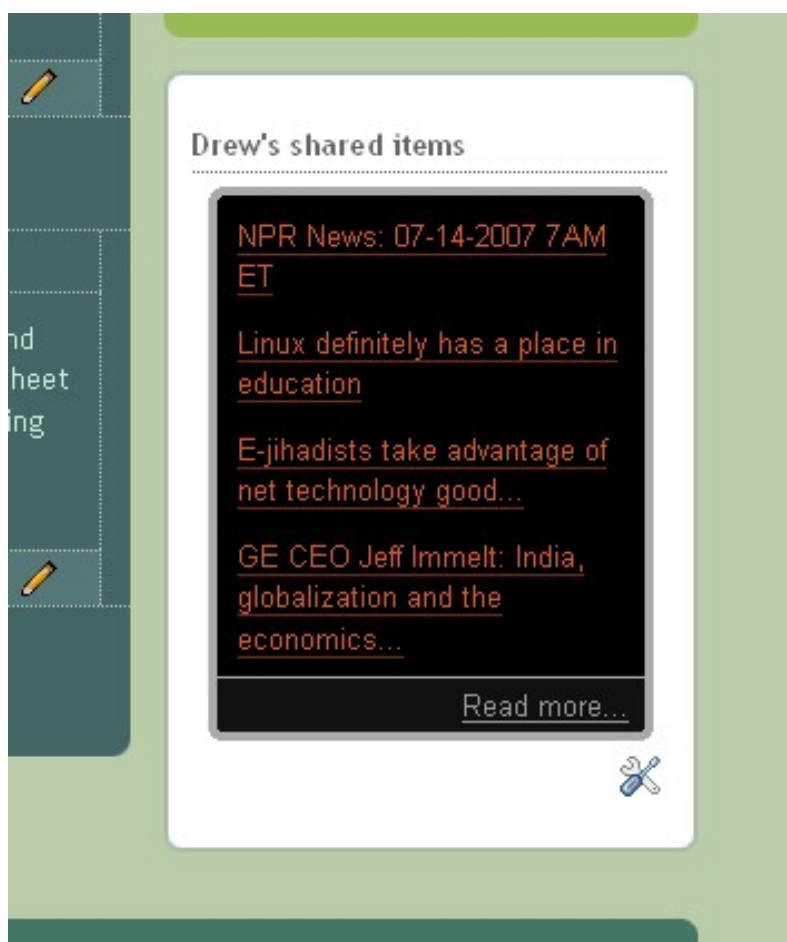
From here you have two options:

1. Click on the Add to Blogger
2. Alternately, you can copy the code and paste it into any webpage or other blog you want.



Successfully Added

Once you click the Blogger button, Google will prompt you and ask you if you want to add this widget. Click Add Widget. Remember, as we have already seen, we can always delete it or change it later.



But what if I am see something on the web that is great for my reader?

Great question!!! I'm glad you asked. If you are on the web and want to add an RSS feed. Just look for this icon or for the letters RSS.



The following example shows you how to put Slate in your RSS reader.

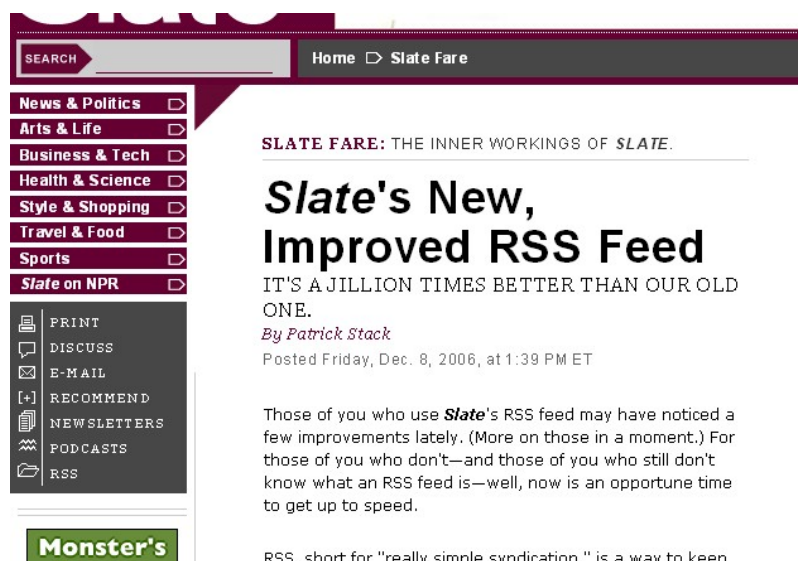
Look for the RSS Icon or the letters RSS

On Slate's main page we have scrolled down till we found it and there it is. Click on it.



A Proud Slate...

Slate is proud of their new offerings and if you scroll down you will find a long list of feeds in addition to the main feed.



The big list

Publications like Slate, NYTimes, and CNN have huge lists of RSS content. We are going to choose "Today's Papers" from Slate, which is a daily article that summarizes what is making the front page on publications around the world.

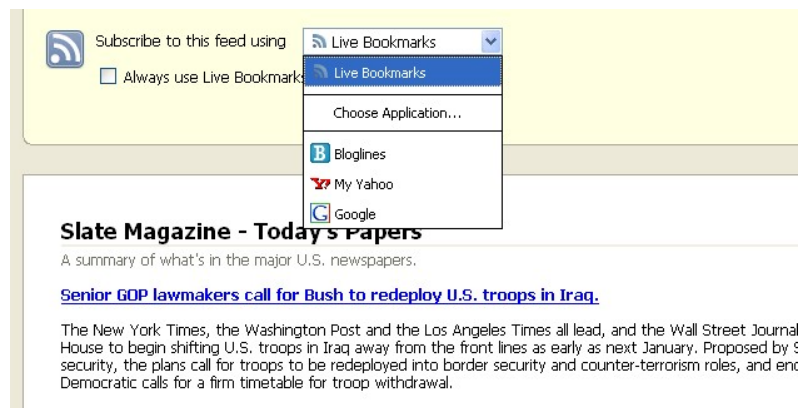
Click on the link.

<http://www.slate.com/rss/feed.aspx?id=2126999>
Television - <http://www.slate.com/rss/feed.aspx?id=3278>
Today's Blogs - <http://www.slate.com/rss/feed.aspx?id=2111775>
Today's Papers - <http://www.slate.com/rss/feed.aspx?id=1649>
Undercover Economist, The - <http://www.slate.com/rss/feed.aspx?id=2134391>
War Stories - <http://www.slate.com/rss/feed.aspx?id=117404>
Well-Traveled - <http://www.slate.com/rss/feed.aspx?id=2068717>

There is choice

For Google Reader we are going to choose Google, but if we were using Bloglines we would choose that and if we had a locally installed application we could call up that by clicking on "Choose Application."

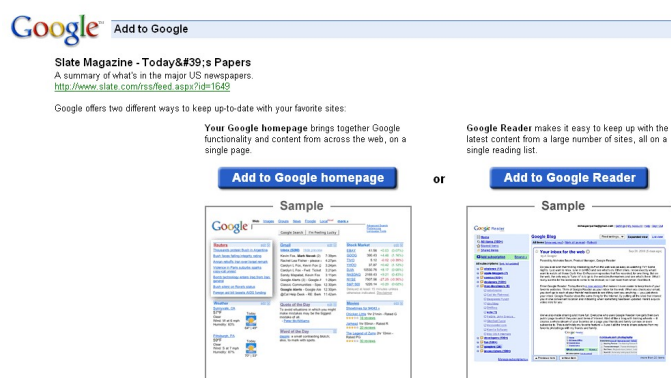
After choosing Google, click on the Subscribe button (unfortunately it is hidden beneath the drop down menu).



Homepage vs. Reader...

You now have a choice, you can add it to your Google Homepage or your Google Reader.

Click on "Add to Google Reader"



Back to the Bat Cave (Umm, I mean Google Reader...)

As soon as we click the button it took us right back to our Google Reader and there is our new subscription with all the content waiting for us to read it, star it, and share it.



Your Turn

Try the bundles, do some searches, and visit your favorite websites to see if they have RSS feeds. Populate your reader with whatever you like and share what you find.

